THE AWNING TACKLE NUISANCE.

Sir,—Though as yet but a stranger, and a very brief sojourner in your magnificent city, I can already fully corroborate the truth of your remarks in THE BUILDER of to-day, upon the apparent insecurity of many of the balconets by which the windows towards the streets are ostensibly *protected*.

I am astonished, in fact, that any one arrived at years of discretion should ever, either with or without thought, trust his precious weight for even one moment to many of those precipitating traps which I have seen projecting themselves, and ready, it seems, at even one moment's notice, to project others who may be foolishly tempted to trust in their protection, out of first floor windows into streets and areas.

But my chief purpose in addressing you at present, Mr. Editor, is to call your corrective and influential attention to other projections than those above, projections in which *a stranger* at least,—though strange to say *not a citizen*, it would appear,—regards himself as one immediately and personally interested. I mean that abominable awning-tackle nuisance, which so frequently projects from shop windows into the very faces of the passers by.

I admit that I for one, as probably you yourself, Mr. Editor, also may, stand considerably above the "average height of Englishmen, namely, five feet seven and a half," being, in fact, six feet, and somewhat indefinitely upwards; but surely the metropolitan shopkeepers ought to be compelled to elevate these nuisances clear of the extreme height of the hats and heads of all and sundry the liegee; whereas I do not exaggerate when I state that until I was taught by practical experience to steer carefully clear of these inexorable sticks of office, my beaver was doffed for me, nolens volens, and rolled into the kennel regularly twice, thrice, and upwards, every day.

As some little compensation, certainly, I must admit that, on the contrary, it was one day lately very unceremoniously, and to my no small astonishment for the moment, driven downwards nearly over my eyes, by an altogether different sort of impulse, communicated from above by a bundle of boots and shoes, which dangled freely in the breeze at the extremity of a long elastic pole, projecting boldly, *et error nullus*, into the very middle of the pavement in Oxford-street. But I relish neither such doffing nor such donning, and can only account for the silent endurance of nuisances such as these, amongst "Englishmen of five feet seven and a half," by the dignified reflection, unavoidably induced not only by this, but by other occasional inconveniences and evils with which, since I came to town, I have had the (perhaps exclusive and peculiar) misfortune to contend, such as with the insufficient length of bedsteads and sofas, and sometimes with the equally insufficient height of doors and ceilings, that I must here be a Gulliver in Lilliput, however preposterous it may appear to you, Mr. Editor, for a humble unit like myself, to designate this mighty Babylon by so diminutive a title.—I am, Sir, respectfully, at all events no *general* nor *particular* HOMUNCULUS.

GLASS TILES.

It appears from the "Patent Journal" of 4th instant, that a Mr. John Russell of Edinburgh, an accountant, has obtained a patent, dated 30th December, 1845, and enrolled 30th June, 1846, for the "manufacture of glass tiles," a circumstance which surprises us a little, as we very much doubt whether an alleged invention of such a date, entitles this patentee to the exclusive manufacture of glass tiles; indeed, it is not very clear, in his own specification, what is the extent or limit of his claim; for he "wishes it to be understood that he does not lay claim to the *mode of shaping* or manufacturing the glass tiles; but what he claims *is the form or shape* of the glass *for roofing purposes*."

His "invention," it is said, "consists in forming pieces or sheets of glass of convenient size, with two of their respective or opposite sides bent or turned up about half an inch, or from that to an inch, according to the size of the tile required, so that the two opposite sides will stand perpendicularly to the plane or surface of the glass, the flanges being so turned that the plane of the tile will be broader at one extremity than the other. The flanges may be turned at any angle, either inwards or outwards, as occasion may require, or else curved," and the "tiles can be formed at any angle or curve, so that they may be fashioned into hips or cupolas for domes or arcades, and may be made of stained or coloured, and also opaque glass for roofs."

"The roof for supporting the tiles is built in the usual manner, with rafters and laths between them, running parallel to the side walls for the purpose of receiving the flanges of the tiles. The apertures between the flanges may be filled up with putty or any other suitable cement, and covered with a hollow bead of metal or glass, or else a thin slip of metal may be first screwed to the laths, and then brought between the junction of the tiles, and turned over at the ends."

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

THE Norfolk Estuary Bill is likely to become law, and to be brought into speedy operation. The tracts of land sought to be reclaimed and brought into cultivation under the provisions of this bill comprise about 31,000 acres, including 2,000 to 3,000 acres of the Green Marsh, private property, portions of which, adjacent to the respective estates, are claimed of the crown, though thus alone reclaimed. The cut and channel intended to straiten the course of the Ouse will proceed inland from Lynn Harbour to Howard's Sluice, and thence through the sands for eight miles to Lynn Roads, near the West Mark Knock Beacon. After satisfying the claims of the frontagers, about 14,000 or 15,000 acres will remain beneficially available to the company, of which, on Sir John Rennie's evidence, about 6,000 acres will be reclaimed in six years; but ten to twenty years may be expected to pass away before the remainder is reclaimed. The estimate for the whole works amounts to 500,000*l*.——The new dock works at Hull, with the pier and jetty, are in active progress.——On the 1st instant the Bishop of Carlisle consecrated the church at Renwick, which has just been built and enlarged.——The new church at Upperby also was consecrated by the bishop of the diocese on Tuesday last week.——A window of stained glass has been put up in the Abbey Church of St. Albans by Mr. Clutterbuck, of Stratford, Essex——On the 24th ult., the foundation-stone of the new chapel for the palace of the Bishop of Ripon was laid.——It is expected that Prince Albert will lay the first stone of the Birmingham Baths on his way south from Liverpool.——The Lords of the Treasury have granted a site for the erection of a church in the St. Thomas's district of St. John's parish, Coventry.——On Friday and Saturday last no less than three new churches were consecrated at Manchester—namely, St. John's, Longsight, erected by the Manchester and Eccles Church Building Society, at a cost of 4,000*l*.; the terra-cotta church erected by Mr. T. C. Worsley, in Platt-lane, Rusholme, at a cost of 3,600*l*.; and the church of St. Stephen's, Audenshaw. We shall give some account of the first of these, next week——From a report to the Liverpool Health Committee on cellar habitations, it appears, that since the cellars in courts were cleared, in conformity with the health Act, in November 1842, very few have been re-occupied; and that since the street cellars came under the operation of the Act, in July 1844, 2,391 cellars have been cleared of about 8,368 inmates, leaving about 3,620 cellars not conformable to the health Act. The report adds, that 322 informations had been laid against parties who had allowed cellars to be re-occupied, and that the whole of the cleared streets are now under police notice. The receipts of the Liverpool baths and washhouses for the current year have been found to exceed the expenditure by 8*l*. odds, and the demand has so much increased, that 100 persons have been sent away in one morning from want of sufficient accommodation. It is therefore proposed to erect an additional number of baths to be conducted on the same principle with those which have already so well fulfilled their excellent purpose. The cost of the proposed building is estimated at 6,500*l*.——The renovation of Malvern Abbey Church has just been completed.——The Bishop of Chester the week before last consecrated three new churches, St. Michael's, at North Rode, near Congleton; Holy Trinity, at Rainow, near Macclesfield; and St. Peter's, at Elworth, near Sandbach.——Lord Methuen has begun his extensive alterations at Corsham Court, which are to cost about 15,000*l*.——"A site for a church and churchyard, schools, and residence for a clergyman, at the Ashford railway station," says the *Kentish Observer*, "has been offered by the railway company for the numerous workmen and other persons who will henceforth establish themselves in that vicinity." The company, however, seems to expect the public to assist in providing and endowing the church and schools.——The first stone of the Printers' Alms-house (to consist in the meantime of six houses) is to be laid shortly by Mr. Luke James Hansard, on a plot of ground to be appropriated within five miles of the metropolis. There is a fund in hand of 1,774*l*. odds, of which 600*l*. constitute the site money.——The proposal of the City Lands Commission to erect a new barge house at Kew, at a cost of 1,470*l*. has been rejected by a large majority of the Common Council.——Mr. Thompson, of Limehouse, has lately completed a wooden church, destined for the diocese of Jamaica. It is dedicated to St. James, and consists of a nave and chancel with stained-glass windows. It will accommodate 300 to 400 persons.

LLANDILO CHURCH COMPETITION.

THE committee have announced that they forwarded to the Incorporated Church Building Society, the whole of the plans and specifications submitted by the competitors (fifty-two in number), in order to be guided by the society in awarding the premiums; and that the surveyor of the society stated, that after a careful examination of the whole, he had selected certain designs as appearing to meet the stipulated requirements to possess the most merit, and to be best adapted for the purposes set forth in the advertisement. That in pursuance of this recommendation, the committee award the first premium of 50*l*. to Mr. Edward Davies, Architect, Bath, who designed the plan with the motto "Sic itur ad astra;" and the second premium of 20*l*. to Mr. John Colston, Jewry-street, Winchester, whose plan was transmitted under the motto "Spes." The surveyor has further reported that, amongst the plans submitted in competition for this church, many of them, in addition to those selected, display much taste, and are very creditable to the architects by whom they have been furnished, particularly those sent under the motto "Fides," designed by Messrs. Stenton and Edwards, 89, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, London; and one under a cipher, from which it appears to have been designed by Messrs. Ordish and Johnson, 9, John-street, Adelphi, London. The mottos were not opened until the competition was determined upon.

THE COLOSSAL WELLINGTON.

A SCAFFOLDING of great strength has been erected on the east side of the archway at Hyde Park-corner, and the preparations seem nearly ripe for raising the ponderous mass to its ill-chosen destination. The transport and elevation of it will be difficult (we wish, as Dr. Johnson said of a piece of music to which this term was applied, it had been impossible), and will need much care and skill. A correspondent tells us that the carriage, on which it is to be moved, is 24 feet in length, the axle 13 feet 4 inches, with a circumference of 30 inches. The wheels are 10 feet high, or 31 feet 6 inches in circumference; four in number, and weigh 2 tons 6 cwt. each, or 9 tons altogether. The castings are at present in the pit, and "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether," will be needed, even to lift them thence. Government, it seems, is lending a hand to the work. An eminent contractor estimated the cost of carrying the castings from the artist's studio to the arch, and hoisting them (in three pieces, to do it whole he was not disposed), at 1,800*l*. What the operation is actually to cost we do not know. It is a grievous pity that so much pains and money are to be expended in destroying one monument, and putting another out of sight.

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